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45 doctors write to express concern over hospital changes

ER HORTON

mrace@nqo.com

MORE than 40 GPs have sent a letter to health bosses and politicians, expressing their "dismay and concern" at the downgrading of the

Horton General Hospital.

Doctors from across Oxfordshire, along with neighbouring counties, said changes to the Banbury hospital would have a "huge impact" on patients and make it hongs for them to access and make it harder for them to access healthcare services.

The letter came two months after NHS chiefs announced the temporary reduction of the maternity service from a consultant-led unit to a midwife-led one.

Since October expectant mothers deemed to be "high risk" have had to travel to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford to give hirth.

Campaigners Keep Our NHS Public campaigners keep our into Fubinc said they were scandalised the letter from the GPs had not been made public at a council meeting last week. They claimed it had been sent to the chairwoman of the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Yvonne Constance.

The letter, signed by 45 medics, urged

health bosses to act now and prevent "ill-conceived" action. They added: "We recognise that very specialist healthcare is best delivered in larger centres, but what is threatened is the dismantling of basic services at the Horton such as maternity and child health with the subsequent knock-on effect on other specialities and ultimately their closure.

"The downgrading will put further strain on an already stretched and vulnerable primary care service; both threatening its future and putting pa-tients at increased risk of poor health."

On Saturday about 50 campaigners for the Horton took to the streets of Oxford in protest against Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust announcing the unit would become midwife-led due to staffing issues.

Campaigner Desley Ayers, from King's Sutton, near Banbury, argued normal births could become complicated very quickly.

She added: "If they cut the hospital in Banbury, the John Radcliffe Hospital is going to have to take all those patients.



Save Our Horton campaigners travelled to Oxford to distribute leaflets and speak to shoppers; below, campaigner Audrey Thomas

"The whole county needs to be aware of it."

Health managers criticised the Save the Horton campaigners for causing "quite severe" pressures by displaying offensive posters during the trust's recruitment drive.
At a trust board meeting last Wednes-

day, director of clinical services Paul Brennan said: "I recognise this is an emotional issue and some members do not agree with our decision but their campaign should be about the service, not about individuals.

"We have concerns about the fact that there have been people's pictures under the words 'baby killers' on posters and it is totally inappropriate."

Keith Strangwood, chairman of the

Keep The Horton General Campaign Group, said the posters had been made by parents who attended one of their

protests in Banbury.

He said: "One of them had a poster saying 'dead in an ambulance' and one said 'baby killers'.

"On any Feesbook site we told not

"On our Facebook site, we told people to make up their own poster and people came along because people care so much about this cause."

A review of the unit was pushed back from October to March next year. Mrs Constance, county councillor for Shrivenham, was unavailable for comment.





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Sir Stephen Sentinel, played by Kay Andrews-Kuhn, Katy Roberts as Rapunzel and Ragworth the Witch, played by Kerri Dolan

Group puts finishing touches to its panto

FINAL rehearsals are under way for a Christmas production of Rapunzel and the Rascal Prince by local amateur dramatics group the Lynden Players.

The classic pantomime will run from Thursday, December 1, to Saturday, December 3, at

Middleton Cheney Village Hall for children and big kids of all ages to let their hair down.

Director Jo Bailey said she was 'incredibly proud' of the show and the 'fantastic' cast, including the pantomime dame Hyacinth Horseradish.

The group was formed in 1975 from a former Women's Institute drama group.

Tickets cost £8 for concessions and £10 for adults.

For more information or to book visit lyndenplayers.com or call

Cheers to impact of watering holes

MP lauds pub industry as figures show its positive contribution to economy

Naomi Herring nherring@nqo.com

PRAISE for the local pub trade has been dished out by the Banbury MP this week after new figures show the north of the county has more than 100 watering holes.

Victoria Prentis has praised the industry's contribution to Banbury's economy, with four breweries also in the local area.

This puts the town in the top 10 per cent of UK parliamentary constituencies for number of

Mrs Prentis said: "It is brilliant to hear that our pub and brewing industry has contributed so much to the local economy in North Oxfordshire.Pubs are often the heart of the community.

"I really enjoy meeting constituents during my pub tours, which I hold regularly across the constituency.
"My next one will be in the

evening of December 8, in The Saxon, Sheep Street in Bicester."

The new figures were put to MPs in the House of Commons by the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) to show just how significant the local watering hole can be to the commu-

It revealed that in Banbury there are more than 1,500 direct iobs created by the industry of which 740 people were between age 16 to 24

The figures also showed more than £25.8m is paid out in wages currently across the pub sector in Banbury

BBPA chief executive Brigid Simmonds said: "The economic impact brewing and pubs has the UK economy is clear for all to see, but on a local level the large number of people earning a living from the trade has a huge impact.

'This new data drives home how important our sector is for a vibrant and thriving local economy, alongside the huge importance of pubs to our local communities.

The figures showed that Banbury had the most pubs and breweries in comparison to all other Oxfordshire constituencies with Witney coming in closely behind with 120 pubs and just three breweries.

The Oxford West and Abing-

don constituency was at the back of the pack in Oxfordshire with 66 pubs and one brewery in

Councillors caught out over council tax

THE Deputy Lord Mayor of Banbury was one of four councillors in Oxfordshire to be sent a court summons in the 2015/16 financial year over unpaid council tax.

According to Freedom of Information figures obtained by Private Eye magazine Nicholas Turner, pictured. who represents Banbury Hardwick on Cherwell District Council, was ordered to pay £412.85

after being sent three reminders for overdue payments.

Across the county £4,845.60 was recouped from four councillors including the Lord Mayor of Oxford over the course of 12 months.

Mr Turner told the Cake the issue arose over a property he lets out while it was being refurbished, and he had paid off the debt before the court summons arrived.

He added: "It is not my sole residence. It was genuine bureaucracy and it cost me money."

Other councillors cited family and financial problems, a slow reminders system and being 'completely stupid' for their delayed payments.

Cherwell District Council spokeswoman Jemma Callow said: "It is a legal requirement for occupiers or owners of all eligible properties to pay council tax as per their annual bill. This applies to all domestic properties whether they are owned, rented or empty, unless subject to a discount, exemption or council tax reduction.

"Where bills remain outstanding, Cherwell will issue reminder letters and a summons to

recover the outstanding fees and any legal costs. "This is the council's statutory obligation. The same recovery approach applies to everyone

whether they are an elected member or not." The Local Government Finance Act forbids councillors from voting on the council's budget and determining council tax if they themselves have missed payments for two consecutive months or more.

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Pick up bargains at collectors fair

ANTIQUE lovers are gearing up for the bi-annual Christmas collectors fair which will pitch up this weekend at The

Holt, in Steeple Aston.

Bargain hunters will be able to scour a number of stalls for local traders such as fine silver from Oxford's Roy Furniss or Witney's art deco figure specialist Mark Ditchburn.

Buyers can browse through a host of items at the event including period furniture, ceramics, period jewellery and vintage postcards of Oxfordshire's rolling countryside.
Organisers say the fair is expected to

prove popular with Christmas shoppers looking for a few special and unique

The fair pitches up at The Holt twice a year and this time it is just in time for Christmas with less than a month to go.

The fair is open to the public will be staged on Saturday and Sunday from

Entry is £2 on the door, for details contact antiques@the-holt.co.uk



Firefighters tackling the blaze in Mould Crescent

Inquiry as outbuilding gutted by fire

A SUSPECTED bonfire turned out to be a 'significant' early-morning blaze this week and is believed to be a case of arson.

Eyewitnesses first thought the fire behind a property in Mould Crescent, Banbury, on Monday was a bonfire, but as the flames began to intensify they called the fire service.

The fire turned out to be in an

outbuilding.
Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service were called to the reports of fencing on fire at the rear of the house at about 1am.

Two pumps came from Banbury fire station and crews discovered that a significant fire had taken hold of the large

Firefighters tackled the blaze wearing breathing apparatus using two hose reels and a strike jet to extinguish the fire. Crew manager Mike Aspinal, from

Banbury fire station said: "Vigilant neighbours made the emergency call after initially thinking that there was a bonfire

'We received the call as fencing on fire but on arrival, we found that 75 per cent of the outbuilding was on fire.

"Whilst no one was injured in the fire, significant damage was done to personal property.'

Thames Valley Police is also making inquiries into the cause of the fire and urged anybody with any information to come forward and call 101.

Parade role honours efforts of fundraiser

Pub chain employee takes part in Lord Mayor's Show after she was nominated by colleagues

Hannah Somerville

hsomerville@nqo.com

HARD-WORKING fundraiser from Banbury joined the fun and festivities at this year's Lord Mayor's Show parade in London in recognition of her efforts.

Caroline Lally, who works for family pub chain Brewers Fayre, joined patients from Great Ormond Street Hospital on a float after being nominated by

On Saturday, November 12, the waitress stood alongside scores of others on the Premier Inn and Restaurants float and was cheered on by a crowd of about half a million.

Ms Lally had pulled out all the stops to arrange an event at the Bicester pub in May this year raising vital cash for the hospital, which treats children from across the UK with some of the rarest and most complex conditions.
She said: "It was a real honour to be

selected to be a part of the float. The day was really fun and everyone was in great spirits. I'm so pleased to have raised money for a worthwhile cause."

The Lord Mayor's Show is thought to be the UK's oldest street party and has taken place through 801 years of London history, surviving the Black Death

This year's event featured more than



Caroline Lally, far right with microphone, with Dame Barbara Windsor and dozens of patients and supporters from the Great Ormond Street float

7,000 participants, 20 bands, 150 horses and hundreds of other carriages, carts, coaches and vehicles.

Carry On star Dame Barbara Windsor also turned out to greet participants on

the Premier Inn float.
So far Premier Inn and Restaurants, which has the same parent company as Brewers Favre, has raised £7.5m towards a new state-of-the-art clini-cal building at Great Ormond Street through employee fundraising, donations and corporate events. The new fa-

Great Ormond Street spokesman Amit Aggarwal said: "The money raised by fundraisers like Caroline will help us make a real difference to patients and their families, and we were thrilled to see her recognised with a place in the Lord Mayor's Show.

"We'd like to thank Caroline and the whole team at Brewers Fayre for their incredible fundraising efforts.



Baker threatened to set workmate on fire

Court told man wanted to murder his colleague after suffering months of 'abuse'

Annabal Bagdi abagdi@nqo.com

BAKER armed with two lighters who doused his colleague in white spirit during a 'fit of rage' has been jailed for 30 months.

Graham Marsh told police he wanted to 'murder' fellow baker Noel Taylor after allegedly suf-fering 18 months of abuse at the

The 46-year-old's victim was left fearing he would be set alight and burned to death during the 'ut-terly terrifying' episode on July 7.

Jailing Marsh on Friday after he admitted making a threat to kill and common assault, Judge Peter Ross said he accepted the defendant had been troubled by Mr Tay

lor's 'teasing'.

He added: "There was undoubtedly an atmosphere around you at work. While some may regard it as harmless workplace banter, it must be remembered it can have a considerable effect on others.

Prosecutor Jonathan Stone told Oxford Crown Court Mr Taylor spotted Marsh perching on a wall, grasping what he thought was a bottle of water, after arriving for work at Banbury's Fine Lady Bak-

ery.
Marsh, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, said: 'I'm going to sort this out now' moments before drenching his victim from his neck to his knees with white spirit from the

bottle, while clutching a lighter.
Mr Taylor tried to snatch the
bottle from Marsh's hands after fearing he would be set on fire, refraining himself from 'beating' the defendant, the court was told.

The defendant later told a fire fighter he wanted to set himself alight and had covered himself in white spirit.

Yzta Calzon





Baker Graham Marsh, left, and Judge Peter Ross

Marsh was walked to the police station by the firefighter af-ter removing two lighters from his backpack and pocket, along with barbecue lighter fluid.

The defendant also revealed to the firefighter a colleague was constantly point-scoring against him, the court was told.

He admitted to officers he wanted to cause serious harm to his victim, adding he felt things had been 'getting too much' after telling police he had depression.

In his police interview, Marsh revealed there had been ongoing issues with Mr Taylor since his mother died, claiming his victim made comments which

had 'built up and up'.

The court was told there was a confrontation between the pair, who were 'nose to nose', the day before Marsh doused Mr Taylor with the liquid.

Defence barrister Alistair Grainger said Marsh, who had no previous convictions and must pay a victim sur-charge, had been struggling to cope but acted 'wholly' out of character.

Marsh was also charged with attempting to cause grievous bodily harm but the Crown Prosecution Service offered no evidence on this charge.

Drunk attackers are sent to prison

ATTACKERS who were 'disgustingly intoxicated' when they ambushed a passer-by strolling through a park have been jailed for their

'cowardly' violence. Ryan McCarthy and Christopher Taylor looked on emotionlessly as they were thrown behind bars for unleashing terror on victim Martins Rudzitis.

Jailing the pair at Oxford Crown Court on Friday, Recorder John Bate-Williams slammed the defendants for their alcohol-fuelled rampage.

He condemned the aggressive pair for having drank too much before the attack in the Banbury park, which he claimed would have been 'desperately frightening' for the victim.

Recorder Bate-Williams added: "In my 15 years sitting as a part-time judge, I cannot recall a more cowardly act on a defenceless and vulnerable

"The hapless and helpless victim came into the park, minding his own business and oblivious to the onslaught which was about to be launched against him.

"This was cowardly violence and an entirely unprovoked act on a defenceless man defenceless and vulnerable."

The court was told the defendants were 'heavily intoxicated' and looking to cause trouble when they entered People's Park, Banbury, on July 11, 2014.

Taylor pushed Mr Rudzitis after spotting him coming into the park, threatening him and shoving him up against a

Mr Rudzitis did not try to resist the attack, putting his arms by his side as he was punched in the face, his head hitting the wall, the court heard. McCarthy, who knew his victim, jumped into the onslaught, punching Mr Rudzitis, causing him to fall to the around.

The court was told Taylor then appeared to help Mr Rudzitis from the ground before McCarthy delivered further blows to the victim. Taylor, of Cotswold Crescent, Chipping Norton, also kicked his victim about his body.

Nigel Daly, defending McCarthy, of Balmoral Avenue, Banbury, who was jailed for 14 months, said the 26-year-old was shocked by his behaviour.

Taylor, 28, who had previous convictions for violence and alcohol-related incidents, was jailed for 16 months.

Both admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm and must pay a victim surcharge.



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6 BANBURY CAKE Thursday, November 24, 2016 banburycake.co.uk/news

Restorative justice insight

CRIMINAL justice bringing offenders face-to-face with their victims will be celebrated in the county this week.
International Restorative

International Restorative
Justice Week, which ends on
Sunday, aims to highlight the
restorative justice process, where
criminals meet with victims, their
families and members of the
community
The Thames Valley Restorative

The Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service, which is funded by Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley Anthony Stansfeld, will be raising awareness of its service tomorrow.

Staff will be at Banbury's Castle Quay Shopping Centre between 10am and 5pm.

Restorative justice aims to repair the harm caused by an offender, finding a positive way forward and empowering victims.

Christmas ale

TWO tasting events for a Christmas ale will be held in Banbury next week.

Banbury next week.
The Hook Norton Brewery will
promote their seasonal beer,
Twelve Days on Wednesday at Ye
Olde Reindeer Inn from 6pm-7pm
and at The Coach & Horses from
7pm-8pm.

Free samples of the award winning ale will be provided and the brewer, James Clarke, will be on hand to discuss the beer and brewing process.

Twelve Days is a strong, dark beer, with fruit and nutty flavours. It took the silver medal at the International Beer Challenge this year and Strongest Dark Beer at the World Beer Awards in 2015.

School eco-classroom to let pupils learn outdoors



MP Victoria Prentis and Dr Russ Quaglia, the president of Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations, pictured at Harriers Banbury Academy

Large crowd of children watch MP Prentis open den on academy's site

Naomi Herring nherring@nqo.com

CHILDREN can get a step closer to nature thanks to a new eco-classroom opened at Harriers Banbury Academy.

The new forest school den has been built in the school grounds to allow youngsters to get stuck into more outside learning about their natural environment.

Forest schools are a growing trend across the country with the aim of combining learning with outdoor resources.

Harriers Banbury Academy executive principal Alex Pearson said: "At Harriers, we have three core values – purpose, self-worth and engagement.

"We are always looking for ways to stimulate our pupils' curiosity and creativity, while providing purposeful learning, fun and engagement."

"Outdoor learning and our new forest school den provides our pupils and teachers with exciting opportunities to learn in different and engaging ways, mixing modern technology with the great outdoors." Crowds of schoolchildren gathered earlier this month to welcome Banbury MP Victoria Prentis to the school in Bloxham Road.

The MP was invited to the official opening ceremony of the forest school den and was asked to cut the red ribbon to mark the new eco-classroom officially open.

Mrs Prentis was joined by Dr Russ Quaglia, the president of the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations.

A special commemorative plaque was also unveiled above the doors of the new wooden building to mark the day.

Mrs Prentis said: "It was an honour to open the new ecoclassroom at Harriers Banbury Academy

"The forest den is an exciting new resource for the children to learn more about the natural world.

"Hands-on experiences are so important for young people.
"I am in no doubt that the den will enhance the pu-

den will enhance the pupils' curiosity, creativity and knowledge."

More than 300 nurseries and schools in Oxfordshire have regular forest schools either at a base on site or through learning at local woodlands and forests



New solar roof turns up the heat

JUST two months after we revealed the UK's largest community-owned solar rooftop had been built in Oxfordshire, the record has been broken.

This massive array on the roof of UTC Aerospace systems in Banbury contains 2,590 solar panels and will generate enough energy to

power 120 homes each year. It just beats the previous record of 2,446 photovoltaic panels on the roof of Prodive, also in Banbury.

Both projects were co-ordinated by social enterprise Low Carbon Hub, and funded using a community benefit model. This means ordinary

people were invited to buy shares in the solar rooftop and will get a return on their investment over its lifetime.

John England, site director at UTC Aerospace Systems, said: "Using our roof space to generate clean energy whilst also helping the local community is a win-win for us all."



Steven Newman, Tim Crisp, John England, Elliot Smith and Stephen Hope





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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Banbury is getting ready to host its biggest, longest and most magical celebration yet to launch the festivities

Instead of inviting a celebrity guest to switch on the lights this vear. Banbury Town Council is bringing sparkle to the event with a festive market, live music, traditional carols, entertainment, craft workshops, fairground rides and Santa's grotto.

Visitors can sip a festive drink of mulled wine, cider or beer, choose from the tempting selection of hot food on offer and browse the vibrant Christmas market for gifts and stocking

Local musicians, bands, theatre groups and choirs will entertain the crowds from a marquee in the Market Place throughout the event.

Guitarist and singer Tristan Pate, Cherwell Theatre Company and rock and blues band Big Baloosh are among the performers lined up.

Members of the public are invited to gather in front of

Lights and locals are the new stars

Banbury Town Hall at 4pm to join local choirs for a traditional carol sing-a-long.

Homemade gifts and decorations are always special and there will be workshops where you can make your own tree decorations and candles.

If you find wrapping all those gifts a chore, take advantage of the gift-wrapping service available in return for a small donation.

There is plenty to keep the children happy including fairground rides and a chance to visit Father Christmas in his grotto in the Market Place.

Stilt walkers, contortionists and fire eaters are among the street entertainers who will be amusing the crowds throughout the

afternoon and evening.
Free glow sticks will be handed

out ahead of the official switchon of the Christmas Lights at 5pm and the event will finish with a firework finale.

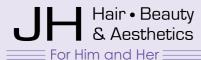
The switch-on is organised by Banbury Town Council in association with Banbury Presents.

Colin Clarke, chairman of the council's general services committee, said: "For many years we've enjoyed having guest celebrities switch on our Christmas lights, but things have to change.

"This year we're starting a new theme by creating a real Christmas atmosphere for people of all ages.

"We think the new set up will appeal to everyone and not just those who like a particular TV programme.





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Support for businesses

BUSINESSES are invited along to a 'power hour' with free business advice from experts at Cherwell District Council.

A series of clinics are being staged in partnership with South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership's Velocity Service

Businesses in the district can sign up for the sessions to get an insight into development ideas, capital grants and updates on revenue

Cherwell District Council lead member for estates and economy Lynn Pratt said: "These clinics are a fantastic initiative, offering local entrepreneurs the chance to learn from SEMLEP's experienced experts.

"Improving business owners' knowledge benefits not only them but the wider district economy too.

"In just one hour, businesses can gain valuable insights into how they can develop and grow.'

The hour sessions are being offered by experts to businesses in the district with 250 employees or less to help boost growth and support job creation.

The last session of the year will be held for a host of companies at Bodicote House, Banbury Road, on November 29.

There will also be clinics starting again in the New Year on January 24, March 7 and April 18.

To book a timeslot contact economy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or via 01295 221780.



<u>VictoriaPrentisWestminsterViews</u>

Jails must be places of rehabilitation

VERY week, I spend my ■ Tuesday mornings at ■ Westminster on the Justice Committee

Our meetings usually involve gathering evidence and questioning experts to inform our various reports. We usually have a number of subjects under consideration, which currently include how to deal with criminal records of convictions of under-18 vear olds and prison reform.

Some of our reports have had an instant effect on government policy (for example on the criminal court charge), while others are long-term pieces of work.

I have long been interested in prison reform, since I spent many years representing the Prison Service in the courts

As a committee we published a report looking at prison safety back in May.

I have been very concerned about recent events in prisons such as the riot at HMP Bedford, and the videos of prisoners in HMP Bullingdon in Bicester which were shown in the

recent Channel 4 programme.

It is clear that there are some deepseated problems in our prisons. We must confront recruitment problems



Recent events at Bullingdon Prison have raised concerns

Without adequate staff we cannot make prisons the rehabilitative places they must be if we are to cut re-offending rates, and break the cycle

Brexit is also going to be a key focus as we look ahead; we will be studying its impact on the justice system, and have just announced an inquiry into how our exit from the European Union will affect the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, our Crown dependencies.

Some of us on the committee spoke at length with the Justice Secretary in the wake of the High Court judgment on Article 50.

Personally, I think we should respect the judges' ruling in this case. They were asked to look closely at the application of the law, and made their judgment on that basis.

They were simply doing their job and should not be criticised for that. While I voted Remain at the referendum. I am a firm believer in

our parliamentary democracy. We must respect the result; I would therefore vote to trigger Article 50.

I know the Justice Committee will be watching developments closely.

There are some deepseated problems in our prisons. We must confront recruitment problems head-on

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- Call at Zaandam
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Castles & Vineyards Four Rivers Cruise

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Highlights & inclusions

- Six nights' full board accommodation on board well-appointed Olympia
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- Scenic cruise along the Middle Rhine
- Main cruise to Frankfurt
- Guided walking tour of Mainz
- On-board entertainment and English commentary
- Escorted by a friendly, experienced cruise manager
- Coach travel from the local area and Channel crossings





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Santa sequel is rather bad

BAD SANTA 2 (15, 92 mins)
Comedy/Romance. Billy Bob
Thornton, Tony Cox, Brett Kelly, Kathy Bates, Christina Hendricks, Ryan Hansen, Cristina Rosato. Director: Mark

Waters GIVEN the amount of saccharine tosh we're subjected to each and every winter, it's perhaps no surprise that, much like an over-excited kid on Christmas Day, we embraced Bad Santa with open arms when it was released back in 2003.

Billy Bob Thornton's portrayal of Willie Soke, a sweary, dirty, drunk conman who disguises himself as Santa, so he and his 'elf' partner, Marcus, can use the season of goodwill to line their own pockets, earned him a Golden Globe nomination.
The quirky, dark comedy also

went on to earn over \$76m at the worldwide box office and a place in seasonal rundowns of 'best ever' festive films.

Now, 13 years on, Bad Santa's coming to town once again.

When we saw him last, Willie looked like he might've found his happy-ever-after with Sue, a woman with a Father Christmas fetish, but when the film opens, Sue's long gone and Willie's set to do himself in. First by shoving his head in the oven, until he realises it's electric, and then via a cord, until the ever chubby and cheery Thurman Merman (Brett Kelly reprising his role) arrives at his place with a bundle of cash

Willie's soon meeting up with his former mucker Marcus

(Tony Cox). Despite Marcus's attempt to kill Willie and run off with the money at the end of *Bad Santa*, he has a proposition for him – stealing from a Chicago charity

on Christmas Eve. Despite his doubts, Willie decides to go along with it, but on arrival in the Windy City, he's met with the unwelcome sight of his mum. Sunny (Bad Santa newcomer Kathy Bates), who he greets by slapping around the

face. It's downhill from there as it transpires just how vile mamma's been over the years, but she has a plan for the three of them – and it involves Willie working his 'magic' on Diane (Christina Hendricks), the prim

and proper charity director.

A sequel has to be bigger and bolder than its original otherwise why bother, but in this instance, it simply means more filth. Even Bates has admitted she had doubts over a scene in which Sunny's sitting on the throne watching trashy TV, but she's gone for it, as have all the cast. There's light relief in Kelly's Thurman, the only person who manages to warm Willie's seemingly cold and cynical heart, Thornton's quips, and the queue of kids waiting to sit on 'Santa's' lap provide a few chuckles.

But mostly you cringe. If you're looking for a strong antidote to Christmas schmaltz, you won't be disappointed, but there's a chance you'll leave the cinema feeling like you've downed a dodgy eggnog – with a strong desire to wash away the taste

A UNITED KINGDOM (12A, 111 mins) Drama/Romance. David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Jack Davenport, Tom Felton, Vusi Kunene, Terry Pheto, Laura Carmichael, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Abena Avivor, Director: Amma Asante

A SHAMEFUL episode of bigotry during the post-war decline of the British Empire provides rich source material for Amma Asante's handsome and deeply moving love story.
Anchored by impassioned

performances, A United Kingdom dramatises the true romance of a defiant African prince and a London salesman's daughter, which embroiled two continents in an ugly tug-of-war for supremacy.

The central couple are kept apart for many years, including the birth of their first child, and scriptwriter Guy Hibbert



and anguish of this period of exile with aplomb.

A United Kingdom is a stirring ode to love, distinguished by molten on-screen chemistry between Oyelowo and Pike.

Asante elegantly navigates the political quagmire, eschewing heavy-handed sermonising about the controversial interracial romance, including powerful scenes of Ruth attempting to win over the sharp-tongued women of Bechuanaland.

Archive photographs over the end credits hammer home the couple's remarkable sacrifices and their enduring legacy in Botswana, and far beyond.



Cake Bookworm

Swing Time by Zadie Smith is published in hardback by Hamish Hamilton, priced £18.99 (ebook £8.99) ZADIE Smith is so thoroughly

impressive as a human being - smart, witty and a tenured professor of fiction at New York University that even when you can't quite latch on to her writing, you wish you could, as though it's your fault for not being intellectual and insightful enough. This is the struggle with Swing Time; the characters are so brilliantly drawn, the minutiae of their worlds and cultural contexts so perfectly illustrated, but there's so little to find endearing in them, that it's possible to set them down and have no drive to pick them back up. It tells of two friends and their dreams of becoming dancers. although only one of them has the talent for it. Their relationship is one stricken by power plays, jealousy and the fear of being

disappointments of which are exhausting to read. Meanwhile, a strand set in West Africa is vivid and intriguing, but unsatisfying and infuriating.

Lyrebird by Cecelia Ahern is

published in hardback by HarperCollins, priced £16.99 (ebook £6.99)

IRISH-born Cecelia Ahern is one of the biggest names in so-called 'chick lit'. When she was just 21, she wrote *PS I Love You*, and her bestsellers have kept on coming. Bo and Solomon are a couple who happen upon the mysterious Laura while they are working on a documentary in a remote area of Ireland. She's lived in almost complete isolation for most of her life, and has the amazing ability to mimic sounds. As they decide to make Laura the subject of their next documentary, she takes over their lives and changes them irrevocably. The plot is so intriguing that you can't help but be hooked from the first chapter.

Cove by Cynan Jones is published in paperback by Granta Books, priced £9.99 (ebook £6.64) WELSH author Cynan Jones

plugs directly into the reader's nightmares with his fifth novel, an ultra-minimalist tale of an injured man adrift at sea in a wrecked fishing boat. The effect is heightened by his frequent and unusual use of the second person, putting 'you' right in the middle of the ocean with a broken arm, few supplies and only the faintest hope of survival. There is not a word wasted in these short, sharp, epigraphic paragraphs that rival even Hemingway in their terseness. At only 95 pages of skeletal prose, it's as taut as trapped fishing-line. and possibly most effective when read in one sitting – though it may not be healthy to let your heart stop beating for that long.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Christmas Craft & Gift Fair: Vale & Downland Museum, Church Street, Wantage. 9.30am. Free. 01235 771447. Film: Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abinadon, Wild Tales (Relatos Salvages). 119mins, Argentina/Spain, 2014, Cert 15. 7.45pm. £6, 01235 521976.

Horizon Lectures: Amey Theatre, Park Road, Abingdon. With mountaineer Stephen Venables, 7,30pm, £12,50,

Open House & Christmas Shopping: Harvey's Cotswold Retreat, 3 The Close, Stanton Harcourt. In aid of

Thrombosis UK, 6-9pm, Free,

Walk (Fieldpaths): Stratfield Brake, Nature reserve car park, Kidlington. SP496122 7.5 miles. Walking along the canal to Sparrowgap Bridge; returning along footpaths via urban backways. Joint walk with ramblers. Bring refreshments and picnic. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07711 564311.

FRIDAY

Christmas at Blenheim: Blenheim Palace, Oxford Road, Woodstock. For the first time, the estate will be illuminated for an after-dark festive trail. 5pm. £10-£16. 01993 810530.

Charity Race Night: St Mary's Church, Church Green, Witney. African Children's Fund's inaugural Race Night. Bet on the outcome of six horse races which will each be screened. Tickets include entry and a hot supper. 7pm. £10. 01993 705272

SATURDAY

Antiques@TheHolt: The Holt Hotel, Oxford Road, Steeple Aston. Antiques and collectors' fair. 10am. £1, under 16s free, 01869 347356

Benson Christmas fayre: 24 Oxford road, Sunnyside, Benson. 12pm. £1 per adult, children under 16 free. 07939 916209

Carrdus Christmas Fair 2016:

Carrdus School, Overthorpe Hall, Middleton Cheney. For Katharine House Hospice and Rosy's charity. 10am. £3. 01295 263733.

Christmas Coffee Morning:

Methodist Chapel, Bridge Street, Bampton. 10am. Free. 01993 702561. Christmas Fair: Berrick and Roke Village Hall, Berrick Salome. In aid of St Helen's Church, 11am, Free, 01865

Christmas Fayre: St John Ambulance Hall, High Street, Kidlington. Tables available for £10. 10am. 01865 370176. Christmas Gift Fair: Elsfield Village Room, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Elsfield. Proceeds for Elsfield church. 10am. Free. 01865 559685.

Christmas Shopping Evening: Eynsham Village Hall, Back lane, Eynsham. For Eynsham Pre-School. 7pm. £1 07772 521984

Christmas Vacation Cards - Family Saturday Session: The Studio, 2 Crown Walk, Bicester. 11am. £5. 01869 602560.

Didcot & Oxfordshire Toy Fair: Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot.

10am. £2.50, under 16s free. 07708 **Ducklington Crafty Cake Club:**

Village Hall, Stanlake Road, Ducklington. How to make handmade Christmas roses to decorate your Christmas cake. With Evelyn Freshwater. 2pm. Members £4, memberships also available, 01993

Fair Trade and Craft Fair: St

Ethelwold's House. East St Helen Street. Abingdon. 10.30am. Free. 07964

Great Milton Christmas Fayre: The Pavilion, Great Milton. 11am. Ramblers walk: The Green, Northend, via Ibstone and Turville. Pub stop or bring a picnic. Unsuitable for dogs. 10am. 01865 761253.

Sobell Christmas Gift Fair: Radley College, Kennington Road, Radley. 10am. £5, concessions £2.50. 01993

St Laurence Church Christmas Bazaar and Food Fair: Appleton Village Hall, Netherton Road, Appleton. 12.30pm. 01865 862040.

Christmas Craft & Gift Fair: St Swithun's Church, Main Street, Merton. 11am. Free. 01865 331429. Table Top and Jumble Sale: Island

Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. 11am. Buyers entry: 50p 01491 833938 Walk (Fieldpaths): Bridge car park, Dorchester on Thames. SU579940 six miles. Walk via Day's Lock and Shillingford along the Thames Path. Bring refreshments for en route break.

Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07722 571895 Wantage & Grove Lions Bingo: Village Hall, Main Street, Grove. 6.45pm. Free. 01235 223467.

Woodstock Christmas Market: St Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street, Woodstock 10am Free 01993772278

Christmas Party Night: Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, Lamborough Hill, Wootton. Ticket includes buffet, bring your own drinks and glasses. £15. 7.30pm. 01235 532816

SUNDAY

BHF Charity Italian Buffet: Bella Napoli, 29 Broad Street, Abingdon. Raising money for the British Heart Foundation. 1.30pm. £20. 07599 016287

Christmas Crafts: Village Hall, Medcroft Road, Tackley. 10am. Free. 01869 345830

Ickford Village Christmas Market: Ickford Village Hall, Bridge Road, Ickford.

Second Lease Walks: Car Park Woodford Way, Witney, Two walks - a seven-mile Kirtington circular and a fivemile Woodstock, Akeman Street. See www.wospweb.com/site/second-lease/ 9.30am. 01993 774500.

MONDAY

Talk - Pilgrimage to Plug Street (Oxfordshire Family History Society): Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington. 7.15pm. Free. 01865 358151.

TUESDAY

Autumn Statement Briefing &

Networking Lunch: The Manor at Weston on the Green, Northampton Road, Bicester, A topical update on the upcoming Autumn Statement with speaker Tim Good, lecturer and co-founder of the Professional Training Partnership. 12.45pm. 01869 322261.

Kidlington & District Historical Society: The Willow Tree Restaurant, Moorside Place, The Moors, Kidlington. A talk by Katherine Bradley: '19th Century women travellers and explorers'. 7.50pm. £3.50 for visitors with under 26's 50p 01865 375758.

Kidlington Christmas Lights switchon: High Street, Kidlington, 6pm, 01865

Oxfordshire Architectural and

Historical Society: Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford. Lecture by Claire Gapper. Decorative Plasterwork in Elizabethan and Jacobean Oxfordshire. 5.30pm, Free

Pottery Painting Christmas Style: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. 7pm. £20. 01235 511550.

WEDNESDAY

Christmas Bring and Buy Coffee Morning: Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club, Oxford Road,

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Kingston Bagguize, 11am, Free, 01235

Jewellery Making Silver Christmas **Designs:** No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. 7pm. £60. 01235 511550

Walk (Fieldpaths): Wantage Market Place, Bear Inn, Wantage. SU398879 six miles A walk along the arm of the Wilts and Berks Canal to East Challow; then on to Letcombe Regis via Windmill Hill, returning to Wantage passing Letcombe Plantation. Bring refreshments for en route break. Bus X30 from Oxford. We cross the A417 at East Challow Assistance dogs only. 10am. 01367

Music

THURSDAY

Corpus Christi College, MBI Al Jaber Building Merton Street, Oxford: Methera. Folk string quartet launch their third album Vortex, www wegottickets.com/event/375464. £10/8.

Harris Manchester College, Mansfield Road, Oxford: Duets for Soprano and Baritone. Megan Hooper, soprano, Chris Emlyn-Jones, baritone. Free, with retiring collection. 1.30pm. 01865 271006.

Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Lunchtime Recital - Fandango. Alex Hart, guitar, Annabel Molyneaux, mezzo-soprano, Peter Cowdrey, piano, Paul Molyneaux, poetry. Free admission. 12.30pm. 01993 702296.

Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Boo Hewerdine and Dan Whitehouse. English songwriters. £11 advance, £13 on the door. 8pm. 01865

263990 O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Brian Fallon & The Crowes, Chris Farren, Dead Swords. 7pm. £22.50. The Corsairs, Strike One, Trauma UK, Junkie Brush, Die In Vain. Punk-pop and psychobilly. 6pm. £8.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Dave Jones' Affinity. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz quintet. 8.30pm. £12, £10 (concs), £6 (student).

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Federal Charm, Cherry Grind The Haven Club, Blues & rock, 7pm, £10 (adv), £12 (otd),

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: Tom Ivey, Lowly Hounds, Firegazers, Eloise Rees, Laz Cunliffe. Blues, rock & folk. 7pm. £6.

FRIDAY

Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton: Country & Wester Dance with the Dusty Rhodes Band, £6. 8.30pm. 01993 850682.

Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon-on-Thames: Gilbert and Sullivan: Patience. Kenning and District United Church Choirs present a concert version. Free, collection for The Abingdon Bridge. 7.30pm. 01865 735885.

Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford: Oboe and piano - Emily Pailthorpe and Clare Hammond. £15-20.

St Frideswide's Church, Botley Road, Oxford: The Harcourt Ensemble's Hot Latin 2 Concert. Elisabeth Hobbs, flute, Joules Roberts, guitar, and Fiona Hedges, cello. £5. 7.30pm. 01865 242797.

The Northcourt, Abingdon Utd, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: Hope & Glory. Ska and Two Tone style band. £10 advance, £12 door, 7.30pm, 01235

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Alabama 3, Hardwicke Circus. 6.30pm. £20. Pearl Jam UK, Mike Wall. Pearl Jam tribute band. 6.30pm. £12

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Mutual Benefit, Saint Sister. 7pm, £10 adv - MOTD.

SATURDAY

Aston & Cote Village Hall, Cote Road, Aston: Harry Allen, American tenor saxophonist, £12.50, 7.30pm. 01993 850164.

Jaqueline Du Pre Music Building, St Hilda's College, Oxford: Harp and Piano Recital. Dave and Paddy. £10. 6pm. 07745 178587.

SJE Arts, St John the Evangelist Church, 109a Iffley Road, Oxford: Sophie Rosa, violin, and Sholto Kynoch, piano. www.sje-oxford.org. £15 adults £12 senior citizens, £5 students. 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

St Giles Church, St Giles, Oxford: Rob Terry Trio plays Gershwin. £12/£10 (concs)/£5 students with ID. 7.30pm. 01865 510460

St John's Church, Main Street, Grove: Sleepers Wake - Music and Readings for Advent. Choral and organ music for the season, performed by The Crown Singers and Musica Beata. £10; children £1. 7.30pm. 01235 835698.

St Matthew's Church, Church Lane, Harwell: Didcot Choral Society presents Christmas Fantasia. An evening of Christmas music by candlelight. Mulled wine and mince. £10/£8 (free for children), 7,30pm, 07915 094842,

The Pine Lodge, Thame Road, Little Milton: Clive Carroll Concert. UK acoustic guitar phenomenon. £9, concs £7. 7.30pm.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Antarctic Monkeys, Dear Hero, Ash Adams. Arctic Monkeys tribute band. 6.30pm. £11. Turin Brakes, Toy Tin Soldier. Folk-pop. 6.30pm. £21.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Honeyblood, Pins, Indie noise duo, 7pm, £10.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: The John Otway Big Band, Beard Of Destiny. 8pm. £11.

SUNDAY

St Mary Magdalen Church, Magdalen Street, Oxford: The

Darkest Midnight. Medieval, Celtic and contemporary carols sung by female vocalists Papagena with lutenist/guitarist Lynda Sayce. £12 (£10 students, under-16s go free). 7pm. 01235 850488

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Avatar. Swedish glamdeath metal veterans promoting new album. 7.30pm. £10. Walking On Cars. Irish alt-rockers. 7pm. £13.50

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls. UK folk/punk singer-songwriter. 7pm, £34.

The White Hart, 126 Godstow Road, Wolvercote: James Bell. Mark Frv. Folk/acoustic. 8pm.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Kitty Mazinsky Quartet. Vocals, piano, bass & drums. 6.30-9pm. Free.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Lanterns On The Lake, Ciaran Lavery. 7.30pm. £12 (adv), £14 (otd).

MONDAY

The Abbey, The Green, Sutton Courtenay: Caspar Frantz - Piano Recital. Suggested donation £10-15. 7.30pm. 01235 847401.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Kelvin, Judas. Scottish indie

TUESDAY

Witney Congregational Church, Welch Way, Witney: Gilbert and Sullivan: Patience. Kenning and District United Church Choirs present a concert version. Free, collection Christian Aid. 7.30pm. 01865 735885.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Big Colours Big Band. Jazz. 8.30nm Free

WEDNESDAY

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Meansteed, Molotov Sexbomb. Little Sparta. Rock/metal. 8pm.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: William the Conqueror Alter-ego of folk treasure Ruarri Joseph, with support from Rosie Caldecott. 7.50pm. Early £4, advance £7, door £10.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Nov 26, D@tes. Satirical sketches. 9.30pm. £6. Nov 29-Dec 3. The Double, 7.30pm, £6. Nov 29-Dec 3, Bang Bang You're Dead. 9.30pm. £6. 01865 305305.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Nov 26-Jan 8, Cinderella. Various times and prices. 01865 305305

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Nov 24, Al Murray. 7.30pm £31.65 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Nov 28-30, *The Mousetrap.* 7.30pm. £16.90-£38.90 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford: Nov 26, Meet Q Pootle 5 and Nick Butterworth. 11am. £7/£5 01865 790050

Charlbury Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury: Nov 24-26, The Merry Wives of Windsor. CADS. 7.30pm. £9, concs £7.50. 01608 811805

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Until Jan 8, Robinson Crusoe, Panto, Various times and prices. 01608 642350.

Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney: Nov 27, Robin Hood, Panto. 1pm and 3pm shows. Tickets from the Cogges website. £10/£8.50. 01993 772602

Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot: Dec 2, Mark Thompson: The Show at the End of the Universe. 7.30pm. £15 (£13.50). 01235 515144.

Village Hall, 7 Queen Street, **Dorchester-on-Thames:** Nov 30, *Aladdin The Panto*. Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society. 7pm. Children (under 12) £5, adults £8, 01865 340792.

The Dupuis Centre, Dashwood Road, Banbury: Nov 26, The Charm of the Magic Lantern. 7.30pm. £12, under16s £6, 07785 235715.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Nov 30-Dec 31, Cinderella and the Glass Slipper Creation Theatre, 2pm, £8-£16, 01865

The New Beaconsfield Hall, Church Path. Station Road. Shipton-under-Wychwood: Nov 24-26, Lord Arthur Saviles' Crime. The Wychwood Players. 7.30pm. £8.50, 07817 426305.

Village Hall, 1 Wolvercote Green, Oxford, Wolvercote: Nov 30-Dec 3, Dick Whittington and His Magical Cat. 7.30pm. Plus Saturday 2.30pm. £9, £6 concs. 01865 516054.

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Puritans suffer frustrating loss

Banbury's promising unbeaten run ends at King's Lynn

BANBURY United fell to a first defeat in four games after a 1-0 defeat at King's Lynn Town.

Toby Hilliard scored the winner with 15 minutes to go as the Puritans slipped to seventh in the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division table.

King's Lynn slightly edged the opening exchanges and with half-an-hour played, went closest to opening the scoring.

Puritans goalkeeper Jack Harding somehow clawed Leon Met-tam's effort off the line when the striker attempted to turn in a cross from six yards.

The second half started with some decent Banbury possession, but they lacked a cutting edge in the final third.

FOOTBALL

King's Lynn soon reclaimed control, but despite forcing their visitors back, were limited to half chances.

However, the pressure told on 75 minutes when the home side's patience was rewarded, as Hilliard struck from close range.

Banbury looked to respond and substitute George Jeacock set up Zac McEachran, who shot just wide of the target.

That was the closest Mike Ford's side managed as they were unable

To force an equaliser.

Banbury Utd: Harding, Westbrook (White 72),
Martin, Nash, Carnell, Odhiambo, McEachran, Self,
Johnson, McDonagh (Jeacock 56), Browne (Bell 79).
Subs not used: Gunn, Blackstock.

Attendance: 587.

	P	W	D	L	F	Α	Pt:
Leamington	19	14	3	2	38	10	45
Chippenham Tn	19	13	3	3	41	21	42
Slough Tn	18	12	3	3	31	14	39
Merthyr Tn	19	10	7	2	36	15	37
Hitchin Tn	20	10	7	3	33	19	37
Frome Tn	20	9	5	6	33	31	32
Banbury Utd	19	9	4	6	30	19	31
Dunstable Tn	20	9	2	9	27	27	29
Redditch Utd	19	9	2	8	26	29	29
Kettering Tn	20	7	6	7	33	28	27
Basingstoke Tn	20	8	3	9	25	28	27
Chesham Utd	16	7	4	5	22	16	25
Biggleswade Tn	18	6	6	6	26	21	24
King's Lynn Tn	18	6	6	6	26	28	24
Kings Langley	20	6	5	9	30	29	23
Stratford Tn	18	5	7	6	25	29	22
Dorchester Tn	20	6	4	10	25	34	22
St Ives Tn	20	6	4	10	19	39	22
St Neots Tn	19	6	3	10	30	39	21
Weymouth	16	5	4	7	22	22	19
Cirencester Tn	20	5	4	11	20	41	19
Hayes & Yeading	18	4	5	9	18	29	17
Cambridge City	21	2	6	13	20	40	12
Cinderford Tn	19	2	1	16	21	49	7



BEATEN: Banbury keeper Jack Harding could not prevent defeat at King's Lynn Town

Bulls enjoy successive victories

BANBURY's rugby team recorded back-to-back wins for the first time this season when beating Reading Abbey 18-10 at Rosehill.

Captain Ian Isham danced his way over and an Ed Phillips penalty made it 10-0 to the visitors in the South West 1 East encounter.

Phillips then cancelled out an Abbey penalty and the scrum half set up Jack Briggs to cross and make it 18-3.

Abbey had two players sinbinned, but Banbury could not take advantage.

And they suffered the same fate, with the yellow card for Chris Phillips resulting in a converted penalty try for the

The visitors, though, closed the game out for victory, thanks to two turnovers from Ed Phillips.

Banbury face Royal Wootton Bassett at Bodicote Park this

Sep 23-Oct 22

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LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

A nostalgic mood to your chart makes you look back at all that's occurred this year. You may feel like laughing and crying, but one thing is of sure, and that is you now see with ease who you do and don't want in your future. Ring now to reveal your full horoscope.

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up against someone who is better placed on the outside of your or Ring now to hear why I want you to only speak from the heart this w

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getting your fingers burnt. Try to think how you would feel if the situation your fingers burnt. Try to think how you would feel if the situation you mean to receive my friend. Bring now so I can explain fully.

May 21-Jun 20 SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

70906 585 4362 **7**0906 585 4368

Jun 21-Jul 22 M CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

There seems to be an element of fear in your current situation within needs to be nipped in the bud. Ensure you are living the life you but you are willing to stand up for what and who you believe in. This is wardt and not one which others have forced upon you. Ring now to hear which sign I think brings out the very best in you.

You no longer worry about how things look to other people, but you are willing to stand up for what and who you believe in. This is ofercast to place you in a really positive frame of mind for work this week too. Exciting proposals beckon. Ring now for a preview.

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Jul 23-Aug 22 🐴 AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

have lost a lot of faith in a close one who has shown a side to ter which has made you question your part in their life in the to an Friday can and should restore your faith. Ring now so I about your future.

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VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
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Mavis House in Fringford; right, the dining room and sitting room

Gill Oliver

NORTH Oxfordshire villages are popular for many reasons, including a surprising number

of literary connections.

Fringford is best known for its association with Flora Thompson's much-loved novel, Lark Rise to Candleford. To write the 19th century tale, Ms

Thompson drew on her years spent in Oxfordshire.

The fictitious town of Candleford was created using elements of Banbury, Bicester and Buckingham. But Candleford Green was based

on Fringford, which she knew ex-tremely well as she worked in the village post office from 1891 to 1897.

It was not until 1945 that the Candleford trilogy was published but

cottage in literary village it is still well known, thanks to various television adaptations which

have been screened during the past 30 years The village is known for its vi-

brant community, with a pub, primary school, playgroup, village hall, cricket club and St Michael and All Angels Church.

Surrounding countryside includes a network of footpaths and bridleways, which make it a good

spot for hikers and horseriders. Fringford is also well connected to Oxford, Bicester and Buckinghamshire, as well as the A34 and M40. In terms of rail, there are frequent and fast services to London Marylebone, taking just 45 minutes and the Midlands.

An attractive cottage, set back from a no-through road in the centre of the village, is one of the properties on the market in this

pretty village. Mayis House includes a kitchen with an Aga plus a breakfast room with exposed beams and fire place.

In the sitting room there are also exposed beams, a log-burner and

double doors to the conservatory.

On the first floor are four double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom.

There is also another staircase to the attic, which agents say can be used for storage and could be converted into extra living space, subject to planning permission.

Other highlights include an integral garage and parking in front of the property. The back garden is mainly lawn, with a patio and a home office in the grounds.

Mavis House is on the market at

£550,000. For more information, contact agents Carter Jonas 01865 511444, or see carterionas.co.uk

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email propertyedit@ngo.com







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